

DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND INDUSTRY SERVICES

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC LINES

(By authority conferred on the public service commission by section 7 of Act No. 106 of the Public Acts of 1909, section 5 of Act No. 419 of the Public Acts of 1919 and section 6 of Act No. 3 of the Public Acts of 1939, as amended, being SS460.557, 460.55, and 460.6 of the Michigan Compiled Laws)

R 460.511 Payment of difference in costs.

Rule 1. In the case of all underground extensions of electric distribution facilities as covered by these rules, the real estate developer or customer shall make a contribution in aid of construction to the utility in an amount equal to the estimated difference in cost between overhead and underground facilities. "Distribution facilities" means those operated at 15,000 volts or less to ground for ___ connected systems and 20,000 volts or less for delta connected systems.

History: 1979 AC.

Editor's note: For the effective dates of R 460.511 and R 460.514 to R 460.519, see R 460.519.

R 460.512 Extensions of residential distribution and service lines in the lower peninsula mainland.

Rule 2. (1) The distribution system in a new residential subdivision and an existing residential subdivision in the lower peninsula mainland in which electric distribution facilities have not already been constructed shall be placed underground, except that a lot facing a previously existing street or county road and having an existing overhead distribution line on its side of the street or county road shall be served with an underground service from these facilities and shall be considered a part of the underground service area.

(2) The owner or developer of such subdivisions shall be required to make a nonrefundable contribution in aid of construction to the utility in an amount equal to the sum of the lot front-foot measurements multiplied by an amount to be fixed or changed in appropriate rate-making proceedings, which amount shall be considered to be the difference in cost between overhead and direct burial underground facilities.

(3) The front-foot measurement of each lot to be served by a residential underground distribution system shall be made along the contour of the front lot line. The front lot line is that line that usually borders on, or is adjacent to, a street. However, when streets border on more than 1 side of a lot, the shortest dimension shall be used. In case of a curved lot line that borders on a street or streets and represents at least 2 sides of the lot, the front-foot measurement shall be considered as 1/2 the total measurement of the curved lot line. Where a lot is served by an underground service from an overhead distribution line under the provision of rule 2(1), the lot front-foot measurement of the lot to be served shall be deleted.

(4) The construction provided for in subrule (2) includes the extension of electric distribution facilities to the lot line of each lot in the subdivision.

(5) The use of the lot front-foot measurement in these rules shall not be construed to require that the underground electric distribution facilities be placed at the front of the lot.

(6) The utility shall install, own, and maintain the service line from the property line to the customer's meter.

(7) For a normal installation, the developer or customer shall make a contribution in aid of construction to the utility in an amount equal to the product of the straight line distance in feet from the termination of the utility's facilities at the front or rear property line to a point directly below the customer's meter multiplied by an amount to be fixed or changed in appropriate rate-making proceedings. Where special routing of the service line is required by the customer, this amount per foot will apply to the route of the line as installed.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.513 Extensions of commercial and industrial lines in lower peninsula mainland.

Rule 3. (1) Commercial distribution and service lines in the vicinity of the customer's property and constructed solely to serve a customer or group of adjacent customers shall be placed underground. This will specifically include, but not be limited to, service to apartment house complexes and shopping centers.

(2) The developer or customer shall be required to make a contribution in aid of construction to the utility for a direct burial installation in an amount arrived at by multiplying the length in feet of the required trench by an amount to be fixed or changed in appropriate rate-making proceedings.

(3) Industrial distribution and service lines shall be placed underground at the option of the customer at a cost per trench foot to be fixed or changes in appropriate rate-making proceedings for direct burial installations as a contribution in aid of construction except as may otherwise be provided for in the utility's filed and approved extension rules.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.514 Costs in case of special conditions.

Rule 4. Where practical difficulties exist, such as frost or water conditions, rock near the surface, or where there are requirements for deviation from the utility's filed construction standards, the per foot charges in R 460.512 and R 460.513 will not apply, and the contribution in aid of construction will be equal to the estimated difference in cost between overhead and underground facilities but not less than the charge calculated under R 460.512 and R 460.513.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.515 Extensions of lines in other areas of state.

Rule 5. (1) Residential, commercial and industrial distribution and service lines shall be placed underground at the option of the developer or customer in areas of the state outside the lower peninsula mainland.

(2) If underground facilities are to be installed, the developer or customer shall be required to pay to the utility a contribution in aid of construction in an amount equal to the estimated difference in cost between overhead and underground facilities but not less than the amount calculated under R 460.512, R 460.513, and R 460.514.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.516 Replacement of existing overhead lines.

Rule 6. (1) Existing overhead residential, commercial and industrial electric distribution and service lines anywhere in the state shall be replaced with underground facilities at the option of the affected customer or customers.

(2) Before construction is started, the customer shall be required to pay the utility the depreciated cost (net cost) of the existing overhead facilities plus the cost of removal less the salvage value thereof and, also, make a contribution in aid of construction in an amount equal to the estimated difference in cost between new underground and new overhead facilities including, but not limited to, the costs of breaking and repairing streets, walks, parking lots and driveways, and of repairing lawns and replacing grass, shrubs and flowers.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.517 Underground facilities for convenience of utilities or where required by ordinances.

Rule 7. The utility shall bear the cost of construction where electric facilities are placed underground at the option of the utility for its own convenience or where underground construction is required by ordinance in heavily congested business districts.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.518 Exceptions.

Rule 8. Nothing in these rules shall prohibit a utility or a customer from applying to the public service commission for relief from the operation of these rules or prevent the commission from granting such relief if it finds such action to be in the public interest.

History: 1979 AC.

R 460.519 Effective dates.

Rule 9. The mandatory undergrounding provisions of these rules take effect on January 1, 1971. The provisions for the contributions in aid of construction take effect for new underground construction upon publication in the Administrative Code or supplement thereto.

History: 1979 AC.